



PRESERVATION IN PROGRESS

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Three Convicted for Removing Human Remains

On July 27, 1999, the Wythe County Court convicted three men of removing human remains and associated grave goods from Native American graves, bringing to a successful close a more-than-two-year investigation by state and federal officials. Rather than face a felony prosecution for vandalism to graves and violation of sepulture, the three entered guilty pleas to the misdemeanor violation of failure to obtain a permit to excavate the burials. The court sentenced the offenders to 75 hours of community service and a year of unsupervised probation.

In spite of the defendants' claims of "doing archaeology," the case was not about archaeology. It was about grave robbing and violating the law. For well over a century, removing human remains from graves has been a felony. Malicious damage to a grave became a felony in 1989, the same year that archaeologists gained the ability to get a permit from the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) instead of filing for a court order each time they needed to excavate a grave site. This permit process requires that the archaeological work on human graves meets certain basic standards and results in prompt analysis and timely reburial. It also requires good-faith efforts to identify living descendants and to consult with Virginia's recognized Indian tribes in



Reeva Tilley and Mary Wade, Virginia Council on Indians, and Catherine Slusser, DHR, examine artifacts removed illegally from Native American graves in Wythe County.

the case of Native American graves. The perpetrators in the Wythe County case had neither applied for a permit or a court order nor met any of the substantive criteria that a permit requires.

This landmark case marks the first-ever conviction in Virginia for unauthorized excavation and removal of Indian grave goods. The case follows nearly 20 years of educational efforts about Virginia cemetery laws and 10 years of administration of the archaeological permit process. The successful investigation and conviction are also in part a result of the educational program for law enforcement officials co-sponsored by the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Department of Historic Resources in cooperation with the Archaeological Society of Virginia and the Council of Virginia Archaeologists. The Wythe County Commonwealth's Attorney transferred all artifacts and records confiscated in the case to the joint custody of the Department of Historic Resources and the Virginia Council on Indians.

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Historic Alexandria Gets New Bridge

Every driver in northern Virginia knows the biggest bottleneck on the Capital Beltway – the notorious Woodrow Wilson Bridge – crossing the Potomac River at Alexandria. The old drawbridge chokes up traffic on a regular basis.

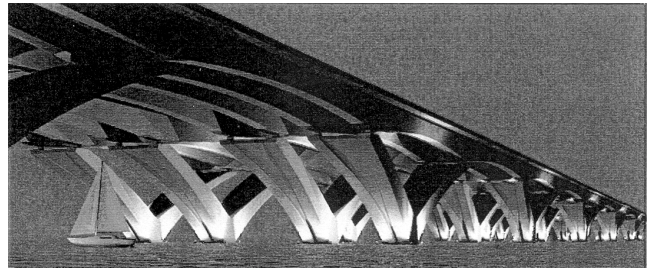
No one anticipated the amount of traffic that now uses the bridge – three times the amount it was designed for! The bridge is literally being shaken to pieces by the traffic. Continuing damage would soon restrict truck traffic from the bridge.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) began planning in 1990 to build a new bridge. Because this is a federal project, the FHWA complied with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. FHWA staff considered the likely impact of the project on historic properties, and consulted, as required, with the Department of Historic Resources.

The Section 106 review was carried out during 1994-1998. Participants included the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the City of Alexandria, the National Park Service, and representatives from Maryland and the District of Columbia. Cara Metz, David Dutton, and John Wells represented DHR. Department staff identified historic properties that must be protected, especially cemeteries, the Alexandria Historic District, and the George Washington Memorial Parkway. The sometimes contentious process was completed with a Memorandum of Agreement, which defined measures to reduce or mitigate the project's adverse effects on the historic properties.

Eight configurations for the new crossing, including tunnels and a very high bridge without a draw-span, were considered. The expensive tunnel options and the high bridge were rejected. The new bridge, costing nearly \$2 billion, will be built just south of the existing bridge. It will be stronger and wider than the old bridge, and it will be higher, so that the draw-span won't need to open as often. Designed as an elegant arch, the new bridge will maintain the scale and grandeur of Washington's monumental structures. An "urban deck" will also be constructed over the new roadway leading to the bridge. This will be a 750'-wide deck – proposed to look like a park – that will link neighborhoods in Alexandria that were severed when the beltway was first constructed.

During the planning process, the City of Alexandria and several citizens' groups filed suit, citing concerns that the Section 106 process had not been properly carried out, and that the effects on the Alexandria Historic District had not been properly mitigated. The Federal District Court agreed with claimants in April 1999. But in December 1999, the United States Court of Appeals overturned that decision, and ruled that FHWA had completed the Section 106 process properly.



Computer drawing of the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

With this court clearance, construction of the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge is set to begin in the fall of this year. Drivers on the beltway are celebrating!

Did You Know?

Five Virginia archaeological sites were among 40 selected by the Archaeological Conservancy as representing those that most changed the face of American archaeology in the last 100 years. Archaeological excavations at Jamestown and Monticello were recognized. So were excavations at two Paleoindian sites dating to more than 10,000 years ago, the Williamson site in Dinwiddie County and the Thunderbird site in Warren County. Also included was Martin's Hundred in James City County, an early-17th-century settlement associated with Jamestown. The list was featured in an article entitled "History in the Trenches: Celebrating a Century of Groundbreaking Excavations in the United States," which appeared in the Archaeological Conservancy's fall 1999 issue of *American Archaeology*.

Director's Notes

Members of the Celebration 2007 Steering Committee recently named the Virginia Cultural Network as the coordinating body for statewide events. The network consists of 13 leading cultural and historical statewide organizations dedicated to encouraging partnerships in heritage tourism at the local and regional level. Committee members cited the Department of Historic Resources, convener of the network, for its leadership role in the Virginia History Initiative. Committee members advocated creating a similar structure of working groups to create heritage trails and special events for the upcoming celebration.

Stackpole Books, one of the world's leading publishers of Civil War books, signed a contract with the Department to print and distribute *The Official Virginia Civil War Battlefield Guidebook*, due out in 2001. The manuscript, written by John Salmon, staff historian, covers 126 Civil War battlefields in the state, or one-third of the war's most significant battlefields, according to the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. The book will be one of the most important produced by the Department.

To celebrate its completed renovation, DHR staff members Cara Metz, director of the Resource Review section, and Bill Crosby, senior architect, and I attended a dinner at the Executive Mansion. Hosted by the First Lady and the Governor, the evening was the capstone of two years of hard work to bring the residence/museum/public office building into the 21st century while preserving the 1813 character of the first floor.

Spring marks two big months for historic preservation in Virginia. During April, the statewide Operation Spruce-Up campaign encourages stewardship of historic buildings and sites. Volunteers repair fences, weed gardens, clean up cemeteries, wash windows, plant flowers, clear tracts, and paint sites in communities across the state. May 14-20 is Historic Preservation Week, promoted across the country by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This year's theme is "Taking America's Past into the Future." During the week, communities will issue local proclamations recognizing the benefits of historic preservation and host heritage tourism events that will be carried on the National Trust's web site.

As you can see, there is a lot going on in historic preservation in Virginia, and the work we do over the next year will set the stage for 2007 in significant ways. -- *Alex Wise*

Boydton Surveyed by UVA Interns



Left to right: Jack Zehmer, DHR; Astrid Liverman, Anna Martin, Claire Jones, Carolyn McCollum, Michael Shviema, and Jacky Taylor, UVA; and Charles Reamey, mayor of Boydton.

“Could not have done it without them!” said Margaret Peters, DHR survey coordinator, of the recent survey of the town of Boydton. A group of interns from the University of Virginia’s School of Architecture ploughed through a massive amount of work in early January to help conduct an architectural and historical survey of the town. The project resulted from an inquiry from Richard Guy Wilson, chairman of the school’s Department of Architectural History, to staff of the Department of Historic Resources about the possibility of students spending a week of their winter break working with professionals in their field of study.

The Department had long wished for a study of Boydton because of the town’s many significant buildings and its historic ambience. Mayor Charles Reamey and members of the town council endorsed the project and agreed to provide office space, technical assistance, and housing for the six interns. The students stayed in a bed-and-breakfast inn located in a restored Victorian house a few blocks from the Mecklenburg County Courthouse.

See “Boydton,” continued on page 4

Side Swiped

There is no doubt that a “siding job” can, and often does, totally wipe out the original character of a historic building. In the worst cases, all the decorative wood trim is removed from the building, reducing even the most ornate Italianate masterpiece into a featureless box of plastic or aluminum. In the best cases, siding is applied only over existing weatherboards, but its application still decreases the projection of door and window frames, reducing the shadow lines and giving the building a curiously “flat” appearance.

Ninety percent of homeowners who buy siding do so because their houses peel and blister, and may have to be repainted in fewer than 10 years. They do not realize that peeling paint may be symptomatic of a house with too much moisture inside.

As warm, moist indoor air passes through interior walls and hits cold exterior walls, it condenses into water, causing the exterior paint to bubble and peel. Slapping siding on a weeping house can trap moisture, creating an ideal habitat for wood-destroying insects, and causing the material underneath to decay. It is like putting a hat on headache – it just does not fix the problem. Eliminating the major sources of moisture may be all that is needed to end exterior peeling: ventilate kitchens and bathrooms with exhaust fans, vent clothes dryers to the outdoors, install dehumidifiers, and vent crawl spaces.

Aluminum will corrode and dent. Vinyl can actually melt and crack and, like all plastic, it expands and contracts. If it is nailed tightly enough to hold through winter, it may expand in distorted, wavy shapes when heated in the summer sun. Once vinyl takes on new, unexpected shapes, it tends to stay that way. Imagine a vinyl record that warps when left out in hot sunlight.

No one likes to paint a house. It is expensive and bothersome, and artificial siding seems like a great alternative. But even though vinyl can be colored throughout, it can still fade. Once it fades – despite the claims of paint manufacturers who are marketing specially formulated paints for vinyl siding – it is very difficult to paint. And once a homeowner begins painting the vinyl, what has he really achieved?

These concerns make it clear that a regular painting schedule and maintenance of wood siding is far preferable to the synthetic stuff. The cold, hard truth is that no material is completely maintenance-free.



Before application of synthetic siding.



After application of synthetic siding.

“Boydton” continued from page 3

The interns helped identify boundaries that could meet the criteria for listing a district on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. They also filled out forms on every resource in the district and mapped and photographed each item in the inventory. Copies of the survey material and photographs will be placed in the Department’s archives and with the town of Boydton.

When he first proposed the project, Wilson anticipated

that a couple of students would respond. A total of six signed up (one undergraduate, four candidates for master’s degrees, and one Ph.D. candidate). Because of the high turnout, and the maturity and experience of the students, the group was able to record some 180 buildings and structures in the study area. Department staff working with the group included Margaret Peters, Marc Wagner, register coordinator, and John Zehmer, architectural historian in the Capital Region office, who managed the project.

Exhibit Funding Nearly Reached

Thanks to the generous support of individuals, foundations, and corporations in Virginia, funding for the Department’s future exhibit “Solving History’s Mysteries: The History Discovery Lab” is nearing its goal. The Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program provided major funding for the planning phase, including the creation of a master interpretive plan. Recent major grants awarded by Dominion Resources Inc., the Richard and Carolyn T. Gwathmey Memorial Trust, and the Robins Foundation add to implementation funds already committed by many donors to support the design, construction, and installation of the permanent hands-on exhibit at the Virginia Historical Society. And most recently, the George J. and Effie L. Seay Foundation offered a major challenge grant on a one-to-one match basis to encourage further donations.

The exhibit will engage visitors in historical discovery, excite them about Virginia’s rich collection of historic resources, and foster an understanding of the importance of resource stewardship. The exhibit is designed to involve participants in the *process* of historical discovery: connecting everyday objects – buildings, bricks, and bits of pottery – to their place in the past. Visitors will become detectives, learning how to uncover and “read” evidence about the past through archaeology and architecture. “Solving History’s Mysteries” is the Department’s most ambitious educational initiative, and we thank all the donors for their generous support. The target date to complete fundraising is May 31, 2000.

New DHR Staff

Chris Stevenson

Chris Stevenson joined DHR in January as archaeologist for the Capital (south-central Virginia) Region office.



He assists in the management of threatened sites, helps communities identify and preserve their historic and prehistoric cultural

resources, and involves the public in archaeological research. Stevenson’s interest in archaeology began at Marquette University after a summer excavation in Israel. He completed his master of arts degree at Pennsylvania State University, where he specialized in the archaeology of the Eastern Woodlands and prehistoric settlement patterns in central Pennsylvania. Stevenson initiated a program of survey and excavation on Easter Island in the South Pacific for his doctoral thesis. Over the last 10 years, he has returned yearly to continue a long-term research project funded by the Earthwatch Institute. In the United States, he has worked in Cultural Resource Management as principal investigator on transportation-related projects at Archaeological Services Consultants Group, Inc., Columbus, Ohio, and Archaeological and Historical Consultants, Inc., Pennsylvania.

Lee Tippett

Lee Tippett joined the division of Resource Services and Review in January as a senior archaeologist. He conducts environmental reviews of state, federal, and local projects and



permit applications to ensure that Virginia’s archaeological resources – and the public values that they represent – are protected during project planning and implementation. To avoid and minimize harm to the state’s historic resources, Tippett participates in the development of mitigation plans and signed agreements with corporations and federal and state agencies routinely involved in projects requiring review. Before coming to the Department, he conducted archaeological research for the South Carolina Department of Transportation, the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, and the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Tippett earned a bachelor of arts in anthropology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He holds a master of arts degree from the University of Tennessee.

Visit DHR on the web at: www.dhr.state.va.us

Toolbox Update

Note: The Community Awareness Campaign (CAC) is a statewide grassroots push to put Virginia's history to work in every locality in the state. Recent activity in the campaign includes: Toolbox volunteer Glenda Knowles has been part of a recent effort in Virginia Beach to establish a local historic register. Properties locally registered could qualify for a partial real estate tax exemption. The city is also interested in forming a revolving fund under the aegis of the new Virginia Beach Historical Preservation Partnership. ¶ In Waynesboro, Alice Wood and Tom Elliot are working with citizens and city staff to designate the Tree Street, downtown, and Port Republic Road areas as historic districts. The Planning Commission adopted a resolution encouraging citywide preservation activities including a citywide survey and inventory, national register designation, and the possibility of a preservation plan and ordinance. ¶ At the urging of CAC volunteer Bob Jean, DHR staff met with Campbell County Administrator David Laurell, Brookneal Town Manager Danny Inge and County Librarian Wilma Dotson to introduce DHR's regional staff and services and to explain the cost share and state grants programs. ¶ The Shenandoah Preservation League, which was organized last year by a group including the county's two toolbox holders – President Judy Reynolds and Secretary Shirley Maxwell – held its first preservation conference in Strasburg on November 6, 1999. The conference was well attended and well received. ¶ Patrick Brennan presented the toolbox to members of the Norfolk Preservation Alliance (NPA). The NPA is a newly formed group of preservation activists that holds monthly meetings focusing on preservation issues throughout the City of Norfolk. In addition to supporting broad-based community efforts, the NPA has been involved in examining issues related to the rehabilitation of older schools. ¶ Toolbox recipient Shirley Gordon was recently elected to the Grayson County Board of Supervisors. ¶ Toolbox recipient Betty Geisler, other preservationists, and Hillsville officials met with Anne Beckett, DHR architectural historian, to discuss support for a Downtown Hillsville Historic District that may be funded by a DHR cost share application. ¶ Efforts by Jim Eddins, Albemarle County, have resulted in the Albemarle County Board of Supervisor's referral of a proposed county preservation plan and ordinance to the planning commission for action.



At the Virginia Historical Society: redware bowl, late 18th century, Penuel Penny site, York County.

DHR Artifacts on Loan At ...

Artifacts from the Department's collections are on the move! More than six million artifacts are cared for by the Department. The collections represent Virginia prehistory and history from 9,200 B.C. to the late 19th century. Many are currently featured in these exhibits across the state:

- "The Story of Virginia," Virginia Historical Society: a permanent exhibit made up extensively of DHR artifacts.
- Yorktown Victory Center: artifacts from ship *Betsy*.
- Jamestown Settlement: objects brought by colonists to the New World.
- Francis Land House, Virginia Beach: artifacts from nearby Indian sites.

From Our Clients

Restoration of Rice's Hotel/Hughlett's Tavern in Northumberland County is under way, with this letter from Rocco V. Tricarico, founding president of the tavern's foundation: "All of us, especially our president, are extraordinarily thankful to DHR, [who] has been with us from the beginning. You taught us how to understand through archaeology the truths that surrounded our building through the thousands of relics uncovered. You showed us the course to available funding sources. You strengthened our love of history. Our successes are yours, too, and we thank all of you for them. Very special thanks from me to the 'Davids'...Dutton & Hazzard."

Calendar of Events

March

15 Highway Marker Application Deadline (Statewide). All historic highway marker applications to be considered at the June board meeting must be submitted by this date. Contact: Scott Arnold, (804) 367-2323, ext. 122.

15 Joint Board Meeting (Richmond). Quarterly meeting to consider nominations of historic properties to national and state registers. Location: Dorey Park Recreation Center. Contact: June Ellis, (804) 367-2323, ext. 116.

April

1-30 Operation Spruce-Up (Statewide). This spring, celebrate Virginia's beautiful outdoors during Operation Spruce-Up! The campaign recognizes volunteers who clean, repair, and improve the state's natural and historic resources. Volunteers who register will receive a Certificate of Appreciation signed by the governor. To register, call Katherine Harding at (804) 367-2323, ext. 136.

10 Cost Share Workshop (Richmond). 2801 Kensington Avenue. Optional workshop for local governments considering participation in DHR's cost share program for 2000-2001. 1:30 p.m. For information, call (804) 367-2323, extensions 102 or 139.

14-16 Preservation Alliance of Virginia Conference 2000: "Putting History to Work" (Holiday Inn, Portsmouth). Learn new ways to put history to work in your community in workshops, plenary sessions, and lectures. Keynote speakers will be Joseph Riley, mayor of Charleston, S.C., and Randall Arendt, National Lands Trust. Saturday, PAV will hold a session for Community Awareness Campaign participants called "Putting Historic Resources to Work in Your Community's Comprehensive Plan and Ordinances: A Workshop for Community Advocates." For session information, call Bob Carter, (804) 863-1626. To register for the conference, call the PAV at (804) 984-4484.

May

1 Cost Share Proposals Due (Statewide). Deadline for all completed cost share proposals 4 p.m. For information, call (804) 367-2323, extensions 102 or 139.

14-20 Historic Preservation Week: *Taking the Past into the Future* (Statewide). Join a nationwide celebration of historic preservation! Museums and historic sites around the state will host special events. For event registration information, call Katherine Harding (804) 367-2323, ext.

136. For an event calendar, see the National Trust for Historic Preservation web site: www.nthp.org/main/preservationweek/preservation_week.htm

June

3-10 Preservation Leadership Training (Hot Springs, AK). The National Trust for Historic Preservation will offer this intensive one-week program to provide training in organizational and leadership exercises, the latest preservation strategies, issues, and information. Registration limited to 30 people. Application deadline March 31, 2000. Tuition cost \$400. For more information contact, the Trust at (202) 588-6067 or plt@nthp.org

14 Joint Board Meeting. Quarterly meeting to consider nomination of historic properties to the national and state registers. Location: TBA. Contact: Bob Carter, (804) 863-1626.

Statewide Plan

The Department is revising the statewide comprehensive historic preservation plan *The Nation's Treasure: The Commonwealth's Trust*, published in 1997. Being incorporated into the revision is input from the public, focus groups conducted as part of the Virginia History Initiative, the Virginia Commission on Archaeology, the Virginia Board of Historic Resources, the Virginia State Review Board, the Preservation Alliance of Virginia, statewide and local organizations, local governments, public agencies, and the members of each regional office advisory committee. The Department invites interested members of the public to provide their input through a questionnaire available from any DHR office or on the DHR web site, and through a series of four public meetings in May and June.

- **May 19:** Roanoke, Buena Vista House, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Contact: John Kern, (540) 857-7585.
- **May 25:** Portsmouth, 1-4 p.m. See DHR web site for location (www.dhr.state.va.us). Contact: Randy Turner, (757) 396-6709.
- **June 1:** Petersburg, Castlewood, Chesterfield Courthouse, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Contact: Bob Carter, (804) 863-1626.
- **June 7:** Winchester, Manassas Museum, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Contact: David Edwards, (540) 722-3428.



Support Historic Preservation —

Check That Box on Your Income Tax Return

This year as you file your state income tax return, please take a moment to check off the box that enables you to make a donation to Virginia's Historic Preservation Fund. This important option provides a convenient way to support heritage education, landmark preservation, and the operation of historic sites. The fund is administered by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and all donations are fully tax deductible. Deductions can be claimed in the following year. For your support, we thank you!

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